

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00940 252049 Z

73-61

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 SY-10

M-03 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-20 RSR-01 /125 W

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P 252030 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8552

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0940

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, GY

SUBJECT: GUYANA ELECTION- RACIAL VIOLENCE

1. RUMORS AND CONFLICTING REPORTS OF RACIAL VIOLENCE BETWEEN BLACKS AND EAST INDIANS LAST NIGHT ALONG THE COASTAL ROAD CIRCULATED HERE TODAY. SCHEDULED PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) CAMPAIGN RALLY AT ENMORE EVIDENTLY BROKEN UP BY LARGE GROUP HEKLEERS FROM PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY(PPP). AS PNC SUPPORTERS ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE, TWO OFF- DUTY GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE SOLDIERS STRUCK AND KILLED BY PNC VEHICLE. AFTER ACCIDENT, STONINGS AND RETALIATION BY AFRO- GUYANESE REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE ALONG EAST COAST ROAD. EXTENT OF DISTURBANCES LIMITED BUT COULD GROW.

2. INCIDENT MARKS FIRST SIGNIFICANT OUTBREAK OF RACIAL VIOLENCE DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN. STRONG SENSITIVITY OF POPULATION TO RACIAL CONFLICT EVIDENT IN EXAGGERATED AND CONFUSED REPORTS OF INCIDENT WHICH HAVE SURFACED IN GEORGETOWN. MEMORIES OF CONFLICTS BETWEEN BLACKS AND EAST INDIANS IN EARLY 1960'S EASILY STIRRED. GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE AND POLICE TO PATROL EAST COAST ROAD TONIGHT IN EFFORT PREVENT FURTHER DISTURBANCES. PRIME MINISTER TO ADDRESS NATION TONIGHT AT 6:00 P. M. DEPLORING VIOLENCE AND CALLING FOR RESTRAINT DURING ELECTION. KING

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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